Indiana GIS Initiative

April 2000
www.state.in.us/ingisi

To: INGISI Members
From: Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Chair
jsaligoe@iupui.edu ; (317) 924-2251

Calendar of Events

Indiana GIS Initiative Open Quarterly Meeting
Crowne Plaza Downtown Union Square
123 W Louisiana St
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2186
(317) 631-2221
April 20, 2000
Noon – 1 pm

INGISI 2000 Quarterly Meeting Schedule
April 20, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
July 20, 9:30 – 11:30 am
October 19, 9:30 – 11:30 am

INGISI Calendar of Events
www.state.in.us/serv/eventcal?PF=ingisi&Clist=81

Open Public Meeting Announcement

Two exciting events are scheduled for **April 20th** - the Indiana GIS Initiative quarterly meeting and ESRI's Digital State Seminar. To accommodate interest in both events, the Indiana GIS Initiative business meeting will be held over lunch in conjunction with the Digital State Seminar.

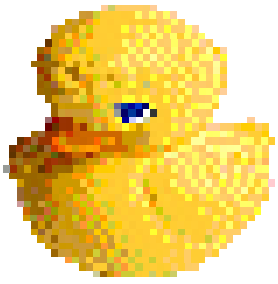
The INGISI meeting will be held from **noon to 1 pm on April 20, 2000** at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Union Square, 123 W Louisiana St, Indianapolis, IN 46206-2186, (317) 631-2221. You are asked to register for the ESRI seminar if you plan on having lunch http://gis.esri.com/events/seminarlist.cfm#April.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Review of Midwest GIS 2000 Conference
   a. Turnout
   b. Accounting
   c. Future plans
3. INGISI Steering Committee Member Turnover and Replacement
4. Status of Executive Order and moving forward with Council establishment
   a. Membership
   b. Process
5. Action items for Subcommittees
   a. Education
   b. Standards
   c. Metadata
   d. Web Development
   e. Networking
   f. Data Sharing
6. Ongoing projects' status
   a. Metadata
   b. Statewide GIS Survey
   c. FGDC Grant Proposals
7. Fostering Regional User's Groups
   a. NW Indiana GIS Forum
   b. SW Indiana RC&D
8. Status of State Government GIS
9. Additional comments / floor open for discussion.

Meta what? - Metadata.

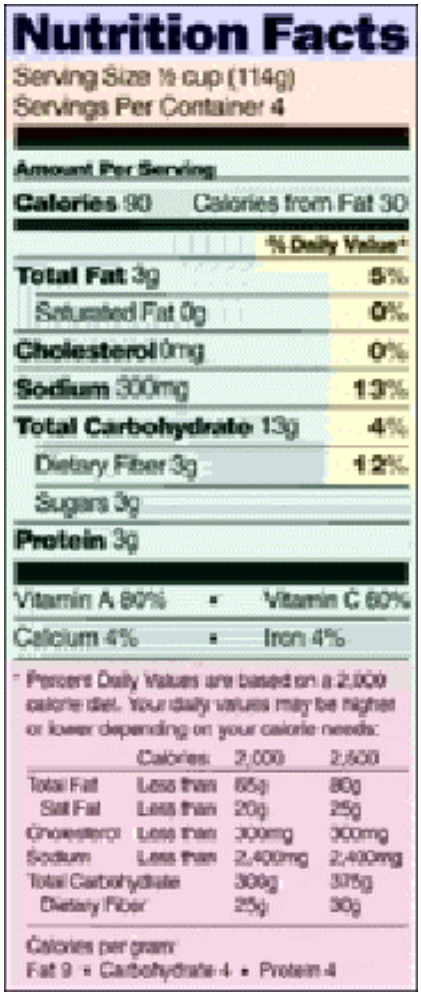
By Jill Saligoe-Simmel



This represents the first of a series of three short articles describing the

purposes, uses, and development of metadata for geospatial data sets. The next articles include "Finding GIS Data with Metadata: How to Read Metadata Like a Shark" and "When Your GIS Tech Gets Hit by the Bread Truck: Maintaining Your Data Investment"

Recognize This?



It is the food label required by the Food and Drug Administration on all food packaged and transferred from one place to another. As a nation, we have been putting some form of labels on our food since 1913. Today, this label, with its mandatory and voluntary components, tells the consumer everything they need to know to make a decision about the packaged food's ingredients and nutritional content.

Using this label the consumer can make an informed decision about the product's fitness for use or consumption. Sound familiar? Just as food is our body's fuel, spatial data is the fuel of the GIS. How do you determine the "really good stuff" from the "junk food"? How do you know if the spatial data is "good" for your system? The Content Standards for Digital Geospatial Metadata were adopted by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to label geospatial datasets.

Like a company whose product is food, the metadata standard documents the characteristics of data so that consumers can determine the data's fitness for their purpose.

The major uses of metadata are:

- to help organize and maintain an organizations internal investment in their GIS data,
- to provide information about an organization's data holdings to data catalogs, clearinghouses, and brokerages, and
- to provide information to process and interpret data received through a transfer from an external source.

Indiana's Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) "Don't Duck Metadata" grant provides training for metadata use and development, and will establish the Indiana Geographic Information Catalog (metadata clearinghouse node) at the IUPUI University Library in Indianapolis. For more information on how you can benefit from metadata, go to on-line metadata resources at the Indiana GIS Initiative's Information Access Center http://www.state.in.us/ingisi/tool_kit/index.html , the Indiana Geographic Information Catalog http://www.state.in.us/ingisi/info_catalog/index.html , or contact Jill Saligoe-Simmel (jsaligoe@iupui.edu).

Additional information and resources can be found through the Federal Geographic Data Committee's web site at www.fgdc.gov. (Excerpts in this article are from FGDC Metadata Literature.)

ESRI Digital State Seminar

From ESRI Digital State Brochure

April 20, 2000 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza Downtown Union Square
123 W Louisiana St
Indianapolis, IN 46206-2186
(317) 631-2221

ESRI, along with Compaq Computer Corporation and other ESRI business partners, invites you to learn how to increase your decision making power by

increasing your knowledge of integrated geographic information system (GIS) software.

Making the right choice with each critical decision that affects your state agency requires accurate, up-to-date information. And making the right choice increases your power to manage effectively.

With the majority of government agencies using GIS, the next challenge is the integration of the entire GIS enterprise and providing the public with information on government offerings via the Internet. The linking of information from separate agencies and functions into a unified, integrated whole allows you to truly take advantage of the knowledge that already exists in your organization. Knowledge is power. Leveraging that knowledge is smart government.

Digital America is a seminar with sessions designed specifically for both managers and technologists in government. The Digital America tour is coming to Indianapolis. Even better, there is no cost to attend.

Using leading-edge technology, software, hardware, and services, industry experts will show you how GIS solutions can improve your process and achieve your agency 's mission. Whether your goal is integration across your entire agency's enterprise or increasing participation by local governments and the public, this seminar is for you.

Register at http://gis.esri.com/events/seminarlist.cfm#April or for registration information, please call ESRI at 909-793-2853, extension 1-1070.

INGISI Newsletter Distribution

Last August, the Indiana GIS Initiative went to a Newsletter format to announce meetings and provide a means to communicate additional information to Indiana's GIS community. This Newsletter is provided in an Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) formation and distributed electronically whenever possible.

Electronic distribution not only saves time and limited resources, it also makes it easy to forward to your colleagues who might not be receiving it otherwise, and lets you see it in color! If you have email capabilities and are not receiving this Newsletter electronically, please update your contact information at http://www.state.in.us/ingisi/contact_us/index.html.

The Polis Center Announces GIS/MIS Training Program

By Kevin Mickey, The Polis Center

The Polis Center at IUPUI offers over 30 classes in Geographic Information System (GIS) and Management Information System (MIS) software applications and concepts. These courses emphasize hands-on instruction that provides participants with the ability to apply their skills immediately. Software applications and operating systems for which training is offered include ArcInfo 8.0, ArcView GIS, MapInfo, Geomedia, Microstation, MGE, Windows NT, Unix, MapGuide, and more.

In addition to software-oriented courses, Polis also offers instruction in specialized topics such as Introduction to GIS, Executive Overview of GIS, GIS Project Management for Counties, Using Census 2000 Data, GIS and Economic Development, GIS for Human Service Organizations, Designing Maps that Send the Correct Message, and many others.

You can obtain information on course dates, times and locations from our web site at www.polis.iupui.edu or by contacting Kevin Mickey at kmickey@iupui.edu or (317) 278-2582. Please check the web site often; new courses are frequently added.

EPA Grant to Northwest Indiana GIS Forum

By Becky McKinley, NW Indiana GIS Forum co-chair

The Northwest Indiana GIS Forum was recently awarded a $60,000 grant from the US-EPA to help continue on-going GIS data documentation (metadata) efforts. The money was granted by the EPA's NW Indiana Team from their Region V office, and it will be spent compiling metadata for

organizations in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties.

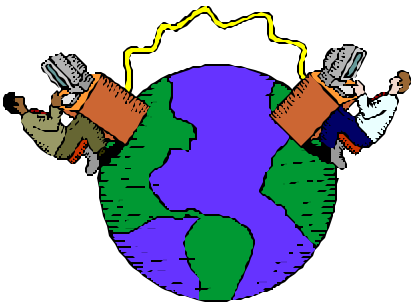
The Forum is actively seeking participants for this project, so if you know of an organization in NW Indiana which is responsible for creating and/or maintaining spatial data, please let them know about our efforts and have them contact Becky McKinley at 219-853-6520x516 or RGALAMBOS@SURFNETINC.COM.

New Indiana Online GIS Discussion Forum

By Eric Torok, The Schneider Corporation

The Indiana GIS Initiative and The Schneider Corporation have released an Ultimate Bulletin Board provided for the benefit of the Indiana GIS community. Ultimate bulletin boards allow people seeking information on a particular topic to post questions, and people with information on the subject the opportunity to respond and share. Particular discussion categories or areas are called threads and anyone who has registered with the site can join an existing thread or start a new thread. There is no cost to register.

Developing a GIS requires a great amount of time and commitment. The bulletin board system enables people who are committed to building a GIS to learn and grow together. For example, someone in a northern Indiana county may be experiencing a certain parcel mapping challenge. It is possible that a county in southern Indiana recently overcame a similar problem and can offer suggestions or assistance. The bulletin board is a way to bring together these people who otherwise may never have met. Please visit this site soon and start sharing. Its located on the Indiana GIS Initiative's Information Access Center, www.state.in.us/ingisi go to "Discussion Forum", or go directly to the discussion forum at www.indianagis.com.



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